

**Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Selectmen  
Tri-Board Meeting  
Room 1 – Town Hall  
Tuesday, January 6, 2015**

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Michael Dougherty, David Hosmer, David Richardson, David Fortin, Glen Lessig, George McCoy and Fred Chmura.

**Board of Education:** Michael Bernardi, Clifford Davis, Joan Fortin, Michelle Woz, and Megan Bard-Morse.

**Board of Selectmen:** Allan Walker, Mitchell Eaffy and Chandler Paquette.

**Others:** Clerk Christine French, Treasurer Donna Stefanik, Wayne Durst, Superintendent Richard Baran, and Preston Shultz.

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman of the Board of Finance Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**2. Joint Meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Education & Board of Selectmen to Discuss Upcoming Budget Season:**

Chairman of the Board of Education Michael Bernardi stated that there are some known increases in the upcoming budget, such as contractual increases in certified teacher salaries and union salaries. There may be an increase in Woodstock Academy tuition. The Board of Education would also like to add teacher assistants back into the first grade classrooms. There should be a savings in the health insurance costs.

David Richardson asked at what point the budget is at currently. Cliff Davis said that it is approximately \$86,000.00 on the good side. Most of the savings have come from Special Education and health insurance costs. However that could change in the future.

Michael Bernardi also stated that there has been savings in fuel costs and plowing costs. He is not sure how the savings in fuel cost will balance out with the increase in electrical costs.

First Selectman Allan Walker explained to the Board of Finance that the Board of Selectmen is still in the very early stages of preparing the budget. The budgets from the department heads, boards and commissions do not need to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen until January 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be contractual increases and probably increases in health insurance premiums. There are no large increases that the Selectman in the budget at this point.

George McCoy asked Ms. Stefanik if there had been an increase in building permits. Ms. Stefanik said there had been as well as increases in inland-wetlands permits and

conveyance taxes. She also announced that Tax Collector Linda Bernardi was a little bit ahead of her collection rate for the halfway point of the year.

Selectman Mitchell Eaffy asked if the Board of Finance had made decision on the school roofs project. George McCoy and Glen Lessig members of the Board of Finance Subcommittee said that they are trying to gather all the information that is needed for bond counsel. This topic will be discussed in greater detail at the January 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Board of Finance meeting.

The Board of Finance affirmed to the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen that they would like a zero increase in their budgets, even though they understand that with contractual agreements that this is hard to accomplish.

There was quite a bit of discussion on the lack of participation by the town's people in regards to coming to meetings. There was also discussion on how get reporters from local papers to attend meetings to get information out.

**3. Citizens Participation:** Preston Shultz believed that a great deal of savings could come from cutting down the number of buses that are out on the road and the number of times the plow trucks go out during the winter storms. He also believes that the Board of Education should investigate how much money a private contractor would cost to transport the school children.

**4. Adjournment:** David Hosmer, seconded by George McCoy, motioned to adjourn at 8:18pm.  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Clerk